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NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

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(Half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise.)

7:35 p.m. to 8:13 a.m.

VOL. XXXII, No. 46 — PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1943 — PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Rommel's Forces Are In Retreat

Axis Armored Army Is Hurled Back Into Tunisian Mountains After Fierce Three Day Fight

Enemy is Now Attempting Stand Three Miles From Kasserine Gap Which Was His Starting Point to Attempt to Crack Allies

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 24 (CP)—British and American forces, after a bitter three-day battle, have hurled Marshal Erwin Rommel's flood tide of armor back into the mountains of Kasserine Gap in central Tunisia under a hail of bursting bombs from hundreds of planes. The German chieftain is now in full retreat, field reports said today, after his tanks had surged within three miles of Thala, key road junction to the upper plains of Kremamsa, and his battered armor is reported to be attempting a stand only three miles from the south of the twisting gap from which he sallied for his attempts to crack the Allied front in Tunisia.

An Allied headquarters communique said that the backwash of the Rommel thrust began early yesterday after Allied forces successfully stood off his attacks during three days of heavy fighting.

OREL AND KIEV NOW

Russians Capture More Important Settlements and Fortified Points In Advance Westward

MOSCOW, Feb. 24 (CP)— The Red Army smashed deeper into the northern Ukraine, northwest of Kharkov, where the capture of Sumy, Lebedin and Akhtyrka fashioned a Soviet bludgeon aimed at Kiev and the important railway junction of Konotop.

A communique said that more strongly fortified settlements were captured as Russian soldiers struck west of Sumy, 100 miles northwest of Kharkov and 195 miles east of Kiev.

The Red Army has also reached within forty miles of Orel.

Little Change In State of Gandhi

Appears to be Comfortable and Able to Talk Although Heart Weakening and Condition Worse

POONA, India, Feb. 24—In the fifteenth day of the fast, there is little change in the general trend of the condition of Mohandas Gandhi, who is growing steadily worse. His state is serious as his heart weakens but he seemed comfortable today and was able to talk a little to his doctors. As he completed the second week of his three weeks' fast, all India anxiously followed reports of his condition. An attempt between the Viceroy and Gandhi for a compromise to end the hunger strike failed.

City Tax Sale Lots Are Sold

Bylaw Covering Number of Properties Going Through City Council

A bylaw to authorize the sale of tax sale lots as follows is being enacted by the city council:

A. O. Olsen, lots 25 and 26, block 27, section 8, $115.

John Bulzak, western twenty feet of lot 14, block 22, section 1, $2,520.

Jessie Finley, lots 48 and 49, block 26, section 9, $20.

J. G. Gunn, lot 36, block 7, section 1, $215.

BUSINESS DISTURBED

Clothing Supplies Available This Year But Future Does Not Look Promising

Louis M. Felsenthal, manager of The People's Store organization here, back from a business trip to Eastern Canada, says he does not anticipate a great deal of trouble in getting clothing supplies this year. However, it may be different next year and, owing to rapidly changing conditions, it is difficult indeed to estimate what the future holds in store.

Clothing manufacturers today are digging into their reserves of materials. Goods that had for various reasons been laid aside are now being used. This means there may be nothing to fall back on for next year.

The immediate problem in the clothing manufacturing business is getting help. Factories in the East which formerly had fifty on a staff are being compelled today to get along with possibly fifteen or twenty.

NAZIS BOMB AND MACHINE GUN LONDON CHILDREN

Though unable to strike at London's war objectives, Nazi airmen are still able to unload their cargoes of death on defenceless schools. Rescue workers are looking for bodies among the ruins of the school in London, England, where it is feared 60 died. This is a radiophoto.

Bulletins

UNION OUTLAWED

VANCOUVER — The Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Union, of which William Stewart has been elected president has been declared an outlaw group by Alex McAuslane, first vice-president of the Canadian Congress of Labor.

CHUNGKING HAS ALERTS

CHUNGKING—Chungking had two air raid alarms yesterday but no enemy planes appeared. It was August 31, 1941, when enemy planes last reached Chungking.

DRAFT DODGERS PROSECUTED

OTTAWA — There were 114 cases of draft dodging prosecuted in Canada in January. Penalties ran from fines of $10 to one year's imprisonment.

JAP WARSHIP DAMAGED

ALLIED SOUTH PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS — A Japanese cruiser or large destroyer was destroyed or seriously damaged in an Allied air attack on Rabaul, New Britain. A merchant vessel was also hit and harbor installations were left in flames. Objectives in New Guinea and Timor were also bombed by United Nations planes.

VENDORS ARE LIMITED

VICTORIA — Effective March 2, government liquor vendors in British Columbia will be limited to forty percent of the liquor supply they had at the same time last year.

WRECK OF CLIPPER

LISBON—Four bodies of victims of the crash of the trans-Atlantic plane Yankee Clipper have been recovered from the Tagus River. Twenty are still missing. Fifteen were rescued. The Yankee Clipper made a forced landing in a thunderstorm, exploded and sank. She was inbound to Lisbon from New York.

DEBATE IS REFUSED

LONDON — The government has refused to have a second front debate in the House of Commons at this time, saying it would be "ill-timed and dangerous." Lord Beaverbrook yesterday in the House of Lords again demanded a second front.

TRAIL AIR RAID ALERT

TRAIL — Air raid sirens in Trail went off accidentally yesterday and the A.R.P. had a practice.

ENEMY SUBS SUNK

WASHINGTON — A Japanese submarine in the Pacific and a German U-boat in the Atlantic have been destroyed, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announces. The former was victim of the gun crew of a supply ship and the latter was sunk by a destroyer. Knox warned, however, against the continued submarine menace, saying that the Germans were building submersibles faster than they were being sunk.

Peace for Finland And Italy is Talk

Both Countries Appear Now to be Anxious to Get Out of War

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 24—Reports here are to the effect that Finland would embrace any reasonable opportunity to make peace with Russia. It is also heard that United States may give Italy a chance to get out of the war.

Some thirty prosecutions under the Radio Act for failure of local radio owners to possess licences are coming up in city police court Friday morning.

Cold Sufferers To Wear Masks?

British Medical Journal Thinks It Good Idea to Protect the Public

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)—People suffering colds should wear masks to work and should be respected for this precaution, suggests Lancet, the medical journal. It said that people often attend work without taking precautions to prevent the cold's spread, "yet a similar pollution of water supplies would be considered disgusting."

Richard Moore jr. returned to the city this morning from a trip to Vancouver.

37 ORPHAN GIRLS BURN

Holocaust in Institution at Cavan, Eire, Today.

CAVAN, Eire, Feb. 24 (CP)—Thirty-seven orphan girls, aged from four to eighteen, were burned to death in a fire that destroyed Cavan Province Orphanage today.

Local Boy Pays Visit Home; Just Won Wings

Sergeant Pilot Henry Worsfold, who last week received his wings with the Royal Canadian Air Force at MacLeod, Alberta, arrived home yesterday to pay a brief visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Worsfold, Seal Cove Circle, before leaving by Friday evening's train for the East.

Russian Girls Balk Flirting

Mostly in Overalls and They Have No Time for Frivolities

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)—Veteran of the Arctic convoy run to Russia, Robert Snider of London, Ontario, said on a visit here that the port of Murmansk is a no-man's land of hard-working women in overalls who have no time for such frivolities as flirting and facial make-up. The Canadian seaman said the girls are friendly and cheerful—but that's all. Every able-bodied man is at the front and all amusements such as pubs, theatres and dance halls are closed, he added. So are hotels and restaurants.

BOOTS ON THE DESERT

CAIRO, Feb. 24 (CP)—Even in the British mechanized army a pair of boots last only three months in the desert. About 2000 people, many of them civilians, are employed in R. A. Q. C. base depots in Africa to look after the receipt and issue of equipment.

Dr. L. W. Kergin returned to the city this morning from a brief holiday trip to Vancouver. Dr. Kergin reports that his brother, H. F. Kergin, former M. L. A. for Atlin, is now making a good recovery after having undergone a serious operation in Vancouver.

MAY WORK JAPANESE

To be Allowed in Logging and Lumber Industries to Relieve Labor Shortage

OTTAWA, Feb. 24 (CP)—The munitions department announces that the federal government has authorized by order-in-council the employment of Japanese and Chinese for the duration of the war in the lumber and logging industry of provincial crown lands of British Columbia, the order being passed to assist in offsetting the serious shortage of labor which is affecting the getting out of lumber required for the war program.

Japanese labor is now employed in logging operations on freehold lands in non-protected areas of the interior of British Columbia and also is employed there and elsewhere in other essential industries.

EDGE FOR RED NOW

Stalin Says Hitler Has Now Lost Initiative—Tremendous Losses of Enemy Listed.

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP) — Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia, in his order of the day yesterday commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Red Army, said that the massed drive of the enemy from Russia has begun. Stalin said that Adolph Hitler's initial advances in manpower, arms and experience had been wiped out with Russia becoming ever stronger and the initiative was now in Russia's hands.

Stalin said that in the last three months the Germans had lost over seven thousand tanks, four thousand planes, seventeen thousand guns and tremendous other war material.

Power Alcohol From Molasses

Sugar and Tar are Other Ingredients in Australia's Product

OTTAWA, Feb. 24 (CP)—Australia's production of power alcohol will shortly be about 19,000,000 gallons annually with sugar, tar and molasses being used as raw materials, L. M. Cosgrave, Canadian trade commissioner in Australia, reported to the trade and commerce department here.

Wineries are potential sources of 5,000,000 gallons of 94% power alcohol a year and it is expected an additional 12,000,000 gallons will be produced annually from wheat although plans for this development have not yet been completed, Mr. Cosgrave said.

HITLER'S LAST DITCH?

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)— P. J. H. Stent, senior regional officer of the London district, predicted Hitler may launch a big commando raid with the object of crippling Britain's war effort when things become desperate for him.

Hockey Scores

Chicago 7, Boston 5.

Real Purpose Of Road North

WASHINGTON D. C. Feb. 24 (CP)—Brigadier General James O'Connor told a press conference yesterday that the Alaska Highway is intended principally to service landing fields of an air route across Canada to Alaska. It is of secondary value as an alternate and emergency route for shipments from the United States. As long as bulk shipments can move safely by water, it will be cheaper to use ships than truck materials over the highway.

SPRING IN INTERIOR

Mild Weather Puts Crimp in Winter Sports Here

SMITHERS, Feb. 24—With two weeks of mild and spring-like weather throughout the Bulkley Valley the snow has disappeared largely from the country side and roads in many places are now bare and drying up. The fields, too, which would be the better for having the snow remain for another six weeks are in many cases bare of snow.

A crimp was put into the winter sports of hockey and curling and, while it is still hoped to fix up the ice in the curling rink for a continuation of the interrupted contests, the ice in the skating rink, which has felt the full force of the warm rays of the sun, is now practically beyond fixing up for further use.

The bonspiel, which was held by the Smithers Curling Club at a much earlier date than usual, got in ahead of the weather and was carried out under ideal conditions. The Bonspiel which was to be held by the Curling Club of the Prince George Club had to be abandoned, temporarily at least, as the weather was too mild for the tournament. One rink of Smithers curlers was all set to travel to Prince George to participate in their event, but their trip was cancelled at the last minute.

BILL DWYER PASSES

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)—Bill Dwyer, radio and music-hall comedian who appeared before the King and Queen—then Duke and Duchess of York—and the King's cousin the Queen of Spain, and was associated with Charles Claphan for 14 years, died in hospital here at 52.

RE-NAMING R. R. STATIONS

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)— Nameless since Dunkerque, Great Western Railway stations are having their names restored in six inch letters in various areas of England specified by the government.

VOTE DOWN AMENDMENT

Cardin Move to Suspend National Mobolization Act Meets With Little Approval

OTTAWA, Feb. 24 (CP)—The House of Commons yesterday defeated by a vote of 195 to 15 the Cardin sub-amendment to the Throne Speech reply urging suspension of the Mobilization Act pending report of a committee on the manpower situation.

Many Quebec Liberal members as well as Conservatives, C.C.F. and New Democracy joined the government members in voting against the sub-amendment.

Veterans Gather At Funeral Of Samuel Webb

Members of the Prince Rupert Branch, Canadian Legion, and members from the Dry Dock gathered yesterday afternoon at the B. C. Undertakers parlors, Second Street, to pay their last respects to Samuel Webb, Imperial veteran of the Great War and a discharged soldier of this one.

Rev. C. A. Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church, conducted the service. The organist was Mrs. Lois Vaughan who played "Lead Kindly Light" and "Abide With Me." The following acted as pallbearers: W. J. Syers, C. Barker, W. Rance and J. Lawrie.

"Last Post" was sounded by Bugler William Rance.

Interment was made in the Returned Soldiers' Plot.

Local Tides

Thursday, February 25

High	4:19	20.2 feet
	16:42	18.1 feet
Low	10:46	5.9 feet
	22:55	6.1 feet

FINGERS FROZE SOLID

LONDON, Feb. 24 (CP)—Dr. Raymond Green of the Emergency Medical Service dipped his fingers into liquid air and they froze solid in a matter of seconds but by allowing them to thaw gradually at a low temperature no damage was done.